

Shenandoah Trail Rides Guide

Horse Trip: 1-30 Mile Roundtrip

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Shenandoah National Park
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



South Fork Moormans River Roundtrip

Map: PATC #11 (South District)

Suitable route for wet/winter conditions.

Trip Description: Ride this quiet road from Jarman Gap to the Sugar Hollow Reservoir.

Skyline Drive Parking

Parking: Jarman Gap Parking
Trailer: Stock trailer
Availability: Trailer parking may be limited.

Boundary Parking

Parking: Sugar Hollow Reservoir Boundary Parking
Trailer: Goose-neck trailer
Availability: Trailer parking may be limited.

Encounters: Vehicle traffic is possible, but is limited to park employees. Weekends bring heavy hiking and/or backpacking along this route.

Footings: Potential for troublesome stream crossings. Wide trails that aren't very rocky (typically gravel or dirt road).

Option 1 - Up to 8 Miles Roundtrip

Park at Jarman Gap, mile 96.8.
Ride down South Fork Moormans River Road for 2.4 miles at which point you will exit the park.
Continue on this road another 1.6 miles to Charlottesville's Sugar Hollow Reservoir.
Turn around and retrace your steps back to Jarman Gap.

Option 2 - Up to 8 Miles Roundtrip

Park at the Charlottesville Sugar Hollow Reservoir.
Look across Moormans River near where it feeds into the reservoir, looking for a yellow gate that marks South Fork Moormans River (SFMR) Road.
Cross the river and ride the SFMR Road for 1.6 miles, then ride around another gate, entering Shenandoah National Park.
Continue to ride 2.4 miles to Jarman Gap.
Turn around and retrace your steps to your vehicle.

Option 3 - Longer trips from Jarman Gap, not suitable in wet conditions

Park at Jarman Gap.
Ride down South Fork Moormans River Road for 2.4 miles at which point you will exit the park.
Continue on this road another 1.6 miles to Charlottesville's Sugar Hollow Reservoir.
Cross the stream, then turn left, riding away from the reservoir for 0.3 mile.
This becomes North Fork Moormans River Trail for 3 miles, then the gravel North Fork Moormans River Road for another 2.2 miles to the Skyline Drive at Blackrock Gap.
If you want to continue riding, cross Skyline Drive and ride down Paine Run Trail for 3.7 miles.
Whenever you are ready, turn around and retrace your steps.
Total Distance: Riding from Jarman Gap to Blackrock Gap and back will total 19 miles, while continuing on to the Paine Run boundary and back will bring your total to 26.4 miles.

Notes

Option 1 is an excellent winter and wet weather trip, as is Option 2 if the initial river crossing is OK. North Fork Moormans River Trail and Paine Run Trail from Option 3 should be ridden only when trail conditions are dry and firm.